

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

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AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 249586

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GE

SUBJECT: CLAIMS TALKS BETWEEN PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS

1. CONFERENCE ON JEWISH MATERIAL CLAIMS AGAINST GERMANY TELLS DEPARTMENT THAT OTTO FUNKE, CHAIRMAN OF ANTI-FASCIST RESISTANCE FIGHTERS, HAS INDICATED WILLINGNESS MEET WITH AN AMERICAN RPT AMERICAN REPPRESENTATIVE OF CONFERENCE. DR. BENJAMIN FERENCZ, WHO IS AMERICAN CITIZEN AFFILIATED WITH CONFERENCE, CAN BE IN BERLIN NOVEMBER 25 AND 26 AND WOULD LIKE MEET WITH FUNKE OR HIS DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVES TO BEGIN EXPLORATION OF CLAIMS QUESTION AS AGREED DURING JULY US-GDR NEGOTIATIONS IN WASHINGTON.

2. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR LETTING FUNKE KNOW OF FERENCZ AVAILABILITY AND ASCERTAINING IF APPOINTMENT CAN BE SET UP SUGGESTED TIME. YOU MAY WISH PASS WORD TO FUNKE VIA DR. GEYER OF FONOFF, WHO WAS DIRECTLY INVOLVED AND IS FULLY KNOWLEDGABLE ABOUT UNDERSTANDING REACHED HERE ON PRIVATE TALKS. FYI. CONFERENCE HAS BEEN TRYING SINCE SEPTEMBER 12 PIN DOWN FUNKE ON INITIAL MEETING, VIA THEIR BONN REPRESENTATIVE (KATZENSTEIN) WITHOUT SUCCESS SO FAR. FUNKE DID HOWEVER WRITE KATZENSTEIN RECENTLY THAT HE WOULD BE WILLING MEET WITH AN AMERICAN. WE HAVE NO RPT NO DESIRE OR INTENTION GET INTO TALKS THEMSELVES, BUT FEEL YOUR RELAYING WORD

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PAGE 02 STATE 249586

ABOUT FERENCZ AVAILABILITY WILL REMIND GDR OF STRONG U.S.

INTEREST IN GETTING TALKS UNDERWAY AS WAS AGREED.END FYI. KISSINGER

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